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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America againstCuba

Letter dated 27 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an appeal from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation addressed to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 39.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal from the State Duma addressed to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba

In connection with the General Assembly's forthcoming consideration, on 26 October 2016, of the draft resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation reaffirms its position set out in a whole series of statements and appeals regarding the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

The unchanged, principled position of the deputies of the State Duma in relation to the flawed policy and criminal practice of imposing unilateral sanctions and various types of economic, commercial and financial blockades and embargoes, bypassing the Security Council and constituting a refined form of interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, fully applies to their support for the legitimate demands of the Republic of Cuba for the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo by Washington, not in words but in deeds.

The policy pursued by the United States of America in relation to the Republic of Cuba for many decades is incompatible with the universally accepted principles and norms of international law, in particular the principle of the sovereign equality of States, the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, and also the principle of freedom of international trade and of international commercial navigation. The damage caused by the actions of the United States authorities to the Cuban State has a very adverse impact on the standard of living and well-being of the Cuban people, and is seriously hindering the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Cuba.

The deputies of the State Duma note with regret that Washington's relaxation of certain aspects of the regime of the embargo against the Republic of Cuba, the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America some 18 months ago, the joint opening of diplomatic missions in the cities of Havana and Washington, the initiation of Cuban-American cooperation on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, ensuring the safety of civil aviation and other issues of mutual concern have not led in practice to the removal of the majority of restrictions and sanctions under the United States embargo. The restrictions are still being extended, for example, to two vitally important socioeconomic sectors: food and pharmaceuticals. The actions of the United States of America to extend sanctions to third countries cooperating with the Republic of Cuba and their economic entities, especially in the financial sphere; to prohibit direct banking links between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America; and to open for American investments only one sector of the Cuban

economy, the telecommunications sector, which is extremely important in terms of conducting an information war, are also a form of politically motivated pressure.

The deputies of the State Duma condemn the policy of the leadership of the United States of America in maintaining for over 50 years, against the interests of the Cuban and American peoples, and also notwithstanding the position of virtually all States Members of the United Nations, the most long-standing unilateral system of sanctions in history to achieve strictly self-interested political objectives.

The State Duma expresses support for the Cuban people, who for many years, enduring deprivations and restrictions of a humanitarian nature, have defended their freedom and sovereignty, and proposes that the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of the States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations should urge the United States of America to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo of the Republic of Cuba.

(*Signed*) V. V. **Volodin**
Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 19 October 2016